

out. These drugs cannot be predictable in the way they react on people. I'm sure if Senator Dierks were to make a comment whether it was on the appropriateness of the death penalty or not he could remind you all, as I will do, that even on over-the-counter medications that you purchase they indicate that if certain reactions occur then you should stop taking them or you should see a doctor, which means there is no way to predict how these chemicals are going to react on each individual. Even the drugs that are dispensed pursuant to a prescription will have what are called contraindications, or those bad side effects, which can be more damaging to the person taking the drug than the ailment that the drug is designed to deal with. So by putting together this combination that Senator Lindsay persuaded you to do is no assurance that the execution is going to be less gruesome, less stressful, but every society which pretends to be civilized tries somehow to clean up that which is dirty so that it will not appear so dirty. If you can make it seem that people are being strapped to a gurney, that they are having drugs administered intravenously which will cause them to go to sleep and fall into a deep slumber which ultimately results in death, those who say the state should kill will feel better. Their hands are clean. This was done, as Senator Elmer said, well, I won't try to use his word. I forget what he said, but he talked about delivering the death penalty in a way that is more efficient or better or whatever. Why do you even have to talk about how you kill? Why? If killing is all right, what difference does it make if you chop the person up a little bit at a time, or make them suffer the death of a million or a thousand cuts, or you take a very sharp sword and you start at the top of the body and you cut all the way down, make a very clean, precise cut, but there is bleeding, or whether you use the method that the Catholic Church used during the days of the inquisition where you spread eagle a person on the floor and stack stones on them until they're crushed? What difference does it make? Is the God you serve that nit-picky? Did he tell you, don't kill by crushing, don't kill by the death of a thousand cuts, don't kill by drowning, don't kill by drawing and quartering, kill by lethal injection and the killing becomes all right? If somebody that you're going to try for murder kills in the method used by the state will the degree of the murder be lessened thereby? Senator Elmer, that's a question that I can ask you. If a person is murdered by means of a deliberate overdose of drugs, should that not be first degree murder because of the methodology used to carry it out, in your opinion?